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Statement submitted by Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The challenges are greater, especially because now there is an interest in universalizing the commitment, that is, all countries assume to achieve all the targets in their countries, but also contribute beyond their borders. Among the challenges, some are more critical and imply greater conflicts. First, poverty not only did not decrease, but it has increased in many countries in important population groups. Women, children and young people are among the most affected and those who evidenced more limitations to overcome poverty. It is evident that in the next 15 years, the effort should be greater to impact in this group. In this regard, in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is essential for women to overcome informal employment, the most common form and the one which is associated with domestic work. Therefore, it should be regulated under formal employment. Some countries started but it should be generalized and accelerated as requirement to contribute to decrease poverty among women.

Education, especially for girls, should achieve better quality standards and number of completed years. Education in girls is key to strengthen better income levels in their future working life and also to guarantee they have fewer children at an older age. In education, quality and number of years completed are key.

Lastly, maternal health, especially the decrease in maternal mortality is another great challenge that in Latin America and the Caribbean is key to improve and achieve the human development we aim at for all population. Maternal health is still weak and countries have high mortality rates that should be decreased by improving health services; guaranteeing access of adolescents to comprehensive sexuality education; providing modern contraceptive methods and diagnostic and HIV/AIDS prevention. These basic actions should be guaranteed and all countries must be helped out to cover them with genuine resources, as the financial transaction tax and other taxing that should be adopted. This does not exclude the commitment of richest countries to achieve 0,7% of their Gross Domestic Product devoted to international cooperation.

In order to achieve this, the priorities to reduce war expenses at country levels should be achieved. But this must be along with reforms in the tax system that reduces indirect taxes which affected more poor people. It is impossible that only one country changes this; there should be global consensus and commitment to reach a global change. Inequality of rights and the current economic, social and gender gaps can no longer persist if we aim at achieving sustainable development.